

grazing animals. The thick turf was cut into blocks to build the walls of the "sod houses" of early settlers on the western prairies.

The phytogeographical significance of the discovery of *Buchloë dactyloides* growing spontaneously in Illinois is that it establishes the fact that this grass ranged at least as far eastward as west-central Illinois, where it is clearly a relict from early post-Pleistocene times. Its discovery here by Dr. Chase in 1956 certainly does not represent a recent extension of range. Although it is now known to occur in Illinois in only a single locality where it occupies a small area in a relatively undisturbed part of a cemetery, it is probable that this colony was only one among several or many others that persisted in Illinois possibly down to the nineteenth century. The fact is nevertheless rather remarkable that during one hundred and fifty years of intermittent but extensive botanical collection and exploration in Illinois, this plant has remained undetected until now. Its recent discovery shows again how nearly impossible it is to discover all the species of a region even after long study. In this particular instance this grass had been completely overlooked, even by the several discriminating resident students of the flora of central Illinois, including, among others, Frederick Brendel, the distinguished author of *Flora Peoriana*, who studied the botany of the Peoria district from 1852 to 1912, and Francis Eugene McDonald, who collected extensively in the same area from about 1880 to 1920. It remained for the veteran Illinois botanist, Dr. V. H. Chase, to discover this species in Illinois at a station about 400 miles east of its nearest known occurrence in northwestern Iowa.

The collection data of *Buchloë dactyloides* in Illinois are as follows: in Springdale cemetery, Peoria, Peoria Co., August 8, 1956, V. H. Chase 14304, apparently a relic on soil never in cultivation. Specimens have been deposited in the herbaria of the Smithsonian Institution and the University of Illinois.—G. NEVILLE JONES, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS.

RORIPPA SESSILIFLORA IN ESSEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.—When checking over the Cruciferae in the herbarium of the Peabody Museum of Salem I found a sheet of an unfamiliar species collected in Salem by the Rev. John Lewis Russell in

1859 bearing the notation, "A weed in garden and seen there for many years past." The specimen had been given various identifications, all obviously wrong. Taking it to the Gray Herbarium I narrowed it down to *Rorippa* and with the aid of Dr. Reed Rollins finally matched it with *R. sessiliflora* (Nutt.) Hitch., a plant of the South and West. While made nearly a century ago this still appears to be the only New England collection of the species.—STUART K. HARRIS,
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A NEW COLOR FORM OF *SOLIDAGO SEMPERVIRENS*.—***Solidago sempervirens*** L., forma ***citrea*** Harris, forma nov. Ad formam typicam similis, sed floribus pallide citrinis. Like the typical form but the florets pale lemon yellow.

Any botanist finding this conspicuous color form growing with normal plants near the parking lot of the Crane Beach Reservation in Ipswich, Essex County, Massachusetts, where it is now abundant, would have no reason to suspect that it was not native to the area. However, this is not the case, the original source was in a different county.

A single plant of the color form was noticed in a colony of normal plants growing on open ground in Winthrop, Suffolk County, Massachusetts by Mr. Francis Wade in 1942. He dug the plant and moved it to his garden in Stoneham, Middlesex County, where it prospered and Mr. Wade divided it annually. When he moved to Ipswich, he took the clones with him and continued to divide them until he now has a considerable number. Seedlings coming up resembled the parent plant. Mr. Wade then gathered seed in his garden and scattered it on various areas about Ipswich where the typical form was growing. In a number of these areas the new form seems to be well established and its pale yellow heads contrast sharply with the deep yellow heads of the normal plants. More recently Mr. Wade has scattered seeds of the color form along the sides of the highway between Newburyport and Plum Island but to date none of these plants have flowered.

Mr. Wade brought me material of the new form in September of 1954 and I showed it to Dr. Reed Rollins of the Gray Herbarium. Suspecting that the plants might be polyploids because